Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, ETRD, EC, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXCLUSION FROM GSP

REF: SANTIAGO 3155 (NOTAL)

- 1. QUITO PAPERS APRIL 20 CARRIED UPI ARTICLE REPORTING THAT CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK RECOMMENDED LIFTING OF GSP EXCLUSION FROM VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR. VANIK IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "I BELIEVE WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE PARTICULARLY THE EXAMPLE THE GOVT OF VENEZUELA HAS PROVIDED IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS". THE LENGTHY ARTICLE CONTINUES IN THIS VEIN.
- 2. EMBASSY NOTES THAT ECUADOR'S RECORD IN HUMAN RIGHTS IS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF VENEZULEA AND THAT THE GOE'S SUPPORT FOR OUR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE IS INCREASINGLY VOCAL. THE COMMENT OF FONMIN JORGE SALVADOR ON ARRIVAL IN SANTIAGO (REFTEL) IS INDICATIVE OF THE GOE POSITION: "THERE IS A BASIC POINT OF COINCIDENCE IN THE POLICY OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE HISPANO-AMERICAN CONCEPT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND IN ITS FOUNDATION IN THE CHRISTIAN ETHIC, WHICH IS COMMON TO US ALL, THUS, (THE POLICY) IS WORTHY OF FULL ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION".

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3. SINCE THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT CONGRESSMAN VANIK MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT NOT ONE, BUT BOTH, OF THE LA COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE GSP EXCLUSION HAVE ADMIRABLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS, DEPT MAY FIND IT WORTHWHILE CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO HIS OFFICE. DEPT MIGHT ALSO OBSERVE THAT ECUADOR IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN A TRANSITION FROM

MILITARY TO DEMOCRATIC CIVILIAN GOVT AND THUS THE GSP EXCLUSION IS LIKELY TO AFFECT WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD TWO OF THE ONLY FOUR IBERO-AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES.

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Message Attributes

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